

Blower history proves interesting

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John G. Blower recently became a new member of the Clay County Genealogical Society and he sent an interesting account of Blower history that we thought you may be interested in.

English records show that Mr. and Mrs. John Blower had at least two children in the 1830s, David and Joseph H.

David was born in 1834 or 1835 in Dudley, Staffordshire, and David had two children: John, born in 1858, and William Blower, born in 1860 in Clay Cross, Derbyshire, England. Family tradition says that this family emigrated to Pennsylvania about 1860 or early 1870.

John Blower's other son, Joseph H. Blower, was born March 14, 1837, at Dudley in Staffordshire. He had two wives. He was married first to Hannah Gelsthorpe on June 15, 1863, at the parish church of Northwingfield, Derbyshire.

The interesting marriage certificate which John Blower sent along with this record lists Hannah as an 18-year-old spinster who could not read or write, and her father was John Gels-thorpe, a miner who could read and write. Joseph's father was listed as a miner and a resident of Clay Cross.

Blower family tradition said Hannah's maiden name was Gilstrip but the marriage certificate is spelled Gelsthorpe.

Joseph H. Blower moved to the United States in 1869 or

Clay County's Genealogy

By Ben Coffman

1870. Hannah did not come to the United States until 1876 and the 1900 census says that she had 10 children, but only two were living at that time.

Joseph and Hannah had three children. Sarah Ann, born March 18, 1865, in Clay Cross, Derbyshire. No other information is known about her. Joseph Blower was born Oct. 11, 1868, and David was born March 10, 1870, both at Clay Cross, Derbyshire. David, author of this account, is the grandfather of John G. Blower who gave us this history.

Joseph H. Blower lived in Cardonia for a short time and moved to Carbon where he lived on Poplar Street in 1900 and First Street in 1910.

The 1910 Census lists him as a Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public and a property owner. He was often called Squire Blower and operated a store and a boarding house.

Hannah died Sept. 8, 1905, and Joseph married his second wife, Rebecca Ann Smith, in March 1907. Joseph H. Blower died April 5, 1919, in Clinton, and was buried the next day in Calcutta Cemetery in Clay County.

Joseph, eldest son of Joseph H., lived in Clay County, but moved to Nevins Township in Vigo County. The 1910 Census shows Joseph and his wife, Agnes, with three children: Effie born in 1897, Joseph in 1899 and David in 1901. By 1910 Joseph and his three children were living with his brother, Joseph, at 315 Blaine St., Brazil. Agnes had died before 1910.

The younger brother, David, and his wife, Margaret, settled in Carbon. They had eight children: John G. Blower, born in 1894; Hannah, born in 1896 but died before the 1910 Census; David, born Jan. 10, 1888 or 1889; James A., born Sept. 8, 1901 or 1902; Fred W., Oct. 30, 1904; Thomas E., Nov. 30, 1906; Elwood, May 28, 1914; and Margaret, June 17, 1918.

Submitted by John G. Blower, great-grandson of Joseph H. Blower, 1804 Rockne Drive, South Bend, Ind. 46617-2241, is this obituary of Joseph H. Blower:

"Joseph H. Blower, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Blower, was born in Staffordshire, England, March 14, 1837. He came to the United States in 1869 and settled in the state of

Indiana shortly after coming to America.

"He had been a resident of Clay County since 1871. He was married to Hannah Gilstrip in early life and to this union were born two sons: Joseph, who died Dec. 25, 1917, leaving two sons and one daughter; and David, who still survives. He has six sons and one daughter.

"In March 1907 he was married to Rebecca Anne Smith, his first wife having died on Sept. 8, 1905. He was a Squire in Van Buren Township, Clay County, for 25 years and was widely known and counted his friends by the hundred.

"He departed this life at 3 a.m. April 5. Cause of death, old age and general debility.

"He leaves a wife, one son, 10 grandchildren to mourn his departure. His funeral was conducted by the Rev. J. M. Bradbury, Baptist Pastor, Clinton, on April 6, 1919. Burial was in Calcutta."

*"Leaves have their time to fall
And flowers to wither at the
north wind's breath
And stars to set — but all —
Thou hast all seasons for thine
own — O, Death."*

Query: Tom Fields, 4700 Chouteau St., Shawnee, Kan. 66226, seeks information about the death of Robert Fields, coal miner near Perth, killed by someone about 1902. We can't find any records of his death. Can anyone supply details?